

Lightning Information and Safety Tips



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Lightning Awareness

- Over a dozen injured in the Delaware valley this summer from lightning.
- This includes nine injuries and one death at the Pocono racetrack.
- Hundreds are injured and dozens killed each year from lightning in the United States.
- Image Source: Jesse Rudavski



How does lightning form?

1. Movement of air upward into storm.
2. Carries some water particles and ice crystals upward leading to collisions of particles.
3. Collisions allow for water particles to be negatively charged and ice crystals to have a positive charge.
4. Positive charge builds in upper levels and near surface negative charge in the mid levels.
5. Difference in the charges leads to lightning.



Thunder

- Is the sound heard from a lightning strike.
- Sound travels away from the spot lightning hit the ground.
- To calculate how far the lightning strike is from your location.
- **Take the time in seconds between the lightning strike you see and thunder.**
- **Divide this time by five.**

Indoor Tips

- Stay off corded phones.
- Stay away from plumbing.
- Remember your pets.
- Think about your electronic equipment.
- Lightning can enter your house through the ground or a direct strike.
- Photo source: CBC news



Outdoor Tips

- When thunder roars go indoors!
- Make sure you are in a fully enclosed building or metal topped vehicle.
- Stay away from tall objects.
- Have a plan in place in case of lightning at your event.
A NOAA weather radio can also come in handy.
- Photo source: AP



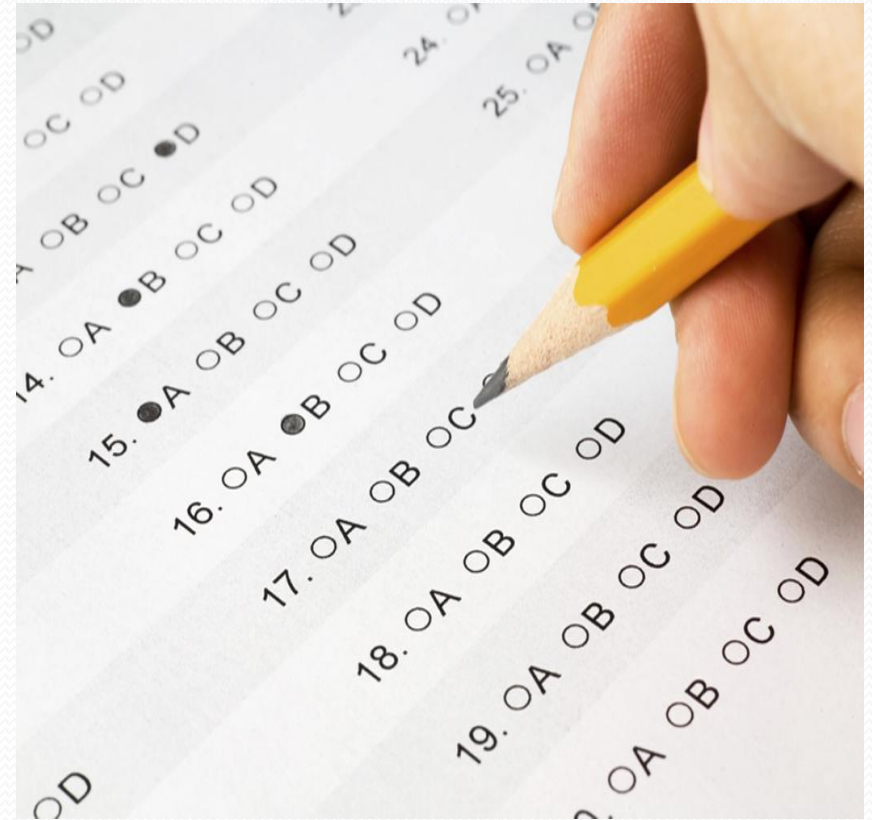
What to do if someone is struck by lightning?

- Call 911. The person is in need of immediate medical attention.
- Look for symptoms of a lightning strike. Symptoms may be similar to a person who suffered a concussion.



Time for the quiz

- Now that you know about the serious nature of lightning it's time to take a short informal quiz!
- Each question can be answered fact or fiction. Answers will be provided after the quiz slide. **Please do not submit any answers to us, this quiz is optional for entertainment and educational purposes only.**



Fact or Fiction?

1. Lightning never strikes the same place twice.
2. Under a tree is the best place outdoors to seek shelter.
3. Houses are 100% safe from lightning.
4. If playing in a sporting event finish the game despite thunder and lightning present.
5. A taller object can attract lightning better than a short object.



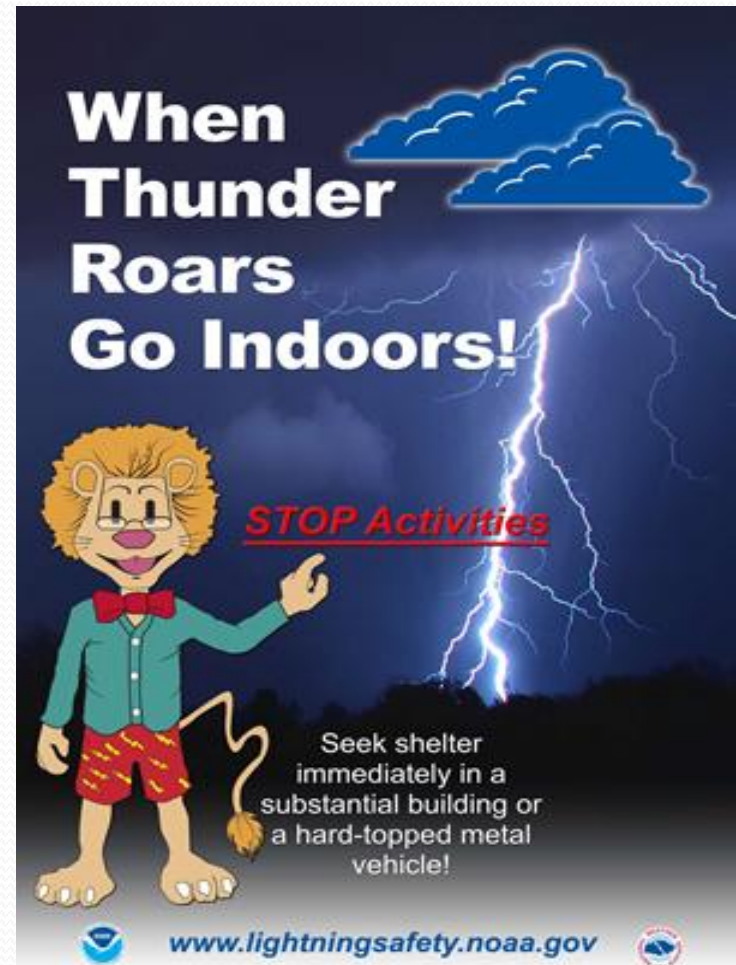
Answers

1. Fiction
2. Fiction
3. Fiction
4. Fiction
5. Fact

Hope you had fun and learned something taking the short quiz!

Special thanks to:

- Personnel in charge of the lightning safety page with NWS for use of materials.
- For more detailed information go to <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/index.htm>
- Remember When Thunder Roars go Indoors!



Questions/ Feedback



Please provide feedback
and questions about this
short presentation to:

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**Again please do not e-
mail quiz answers.**